

In the News

Students 'Talk to the Judges'

Many students in Kern County know more about the court system thanks to a guest appearance by some local judges.

An article in the October 22 edition of the *Californian* (Bakersfield) featured the court's Talk to the Judges event held the night of October 21 at the county's board of supervisors' chambers. The story mentions how four jurists—Presiding Judge Arthur E. Wallace, Judge Michael G. Bush, Judge Craig Phillips, and Commissioner Theresa Goldner—spent more than an hour answering questions before an audience of about 60 high school and college students. The questions touched on issues such as the pitfalls of representing yourself in court, what inspired the jurists to join the bench, and how much money judges make per year.

Because of the publicity, more students and county citizens can take advantage of the court's outreach program and are aware of the court's efforts to educate the community.

Other stories in the news:

"One-Day, One-Trial Helps S.F.'s Jury Response Rate," *The Recorder* (San Francisco), November 27, 2002

Described improvement in the failure-to-appear rate for prospective jurors in the Superior Court of San Francisco County.

"Court Addresses Causes of Juvenile Delinquency," *Mercury News* (San Jose), November 23, 2002

Featured the Superior Court of Santa Clara County's Court for Individualized Treatment of Adolescents, which treats mentally ill juvenile offenders like patients, not criminals.

"Waiting Room Keeps Kids Away From Court Drama," *Los Angeles Times*, November 14, 2002; **"Court-house Makes Room for Children,"** *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* (Ontario), November 14, 2002

Announced the new children's

waiting room in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County's Pomona courthouse.

"Peer Court Allows Youth Participation," *Journal* (Auburn), November 12, 2002

Featured the Superior Court of Placer County's Peer Court, in which high school students act as the prosecutor, defense attorney, bailiff, and jury in a trial of their peers.

"Judge Addresses Students on Career, Heritage," *Daily Bruin* (Los Angeles), November 8, 2002

Reported on an event held by the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Armenian Graduate Students Association and the UCLA Student Bar Association in which Superior Court of Los Angeles County Judge Zaven V. Sinanian shared his insights on the responsibility of working in the judicial system.

"Family Law Facilitator Mobile Unit in Caruthers," *Twin City Times* and *Riverdale Free Press*, October 23, 2002

Announced the upcoming times and locations for the Superior Court of Ventura County's mobile self-help center.



Superior Court of Kern County Judge Michael Bush speaks to the community as part of the court's Talk to the Judges Night held October 21 at the county's board of supervisors' chambers. Photo: Dior Azcuy, Courtesy of the Californian

"California Drug Courts: Making a Difference," *Beacon* (Mendocino), October 17, 2002

Featured the Superior Court of Mendocino County's drug court, from which 78 offenders have graduated since its inception in August 1996. ■

AOC Distributes \$69 Million in Grant Funding

Representing an 11 percent increase from its previous year's total, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) distributed more than \$69 million in grant funding during fiscal year 2001-2002.

Of that total, \$57.8 million went to the courts, \$9.5 million went to the State Bar for nonprofit legal services for the indigent, and \$1.9 million went to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) providers. The AOC increased the number of grants it made—compared to the prior fiscal year—by 55 percent, due to new grant programs under the Modernization Fund and the Trial Court Improvement Fund.

The grants helped to fund programs such as those that address substance abuse, assistance for self-represented litigants, access to visitation, united courts for families, domestic violence, and court interpreters.

● For more information, contact Lucy Smallsreed, the AOC's Grants Program Administrator, 415-865-7705; e-mail: lucy.smallsreed@jud.ca.gov.

Grant Update

GRANTS INCREASE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

In December, the Judicial Council's Executive and Planning Committee approved the allocation of \$950,000 in partnership grants to the State Bar Legal Services Trust Fund Commission. The commission will distribute the funds to legal service providers for use in joint programs with courts to provide legal assistance to self-represented litigants.

The partnership grants derive from the Budget Act of 2002, which allocated \$10 million to an Equal Access Fund "to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice."

Legal service projects receiving portions of the \$950,000 in partnership grants distributed through the Equal Access Fund include those supporting self-help centers, legal clinics, rural access, and volunteer legal services.

● For more information, contact Bonnie Hough, 415-865-7668; e-mail: bonnie.hough@jud.ca.gov.

GRANTS AID CASA PROGRAMS

The Judicial Council in November approved the distribution of \$1,723,750 in grant funding to assist courts in establishing or expanding volunteer child advocate projects. The projects are part of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs that assist abused and neglected children who are the subject of judicial proceedings.

In 1988, legislation amending the Welfare and Institutions Code required the Judicial Council to estab-

lish guidelines encouraging the development of local Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs. The legislation, which called for the establishment of a grant program to be administered by the council, also requires local matching funds or in-kind funds equal to any proposal request. Due to the program's success, subsequent legislation was enacted that made the program a permanent part of the council's administrative duties.

Because CASA programs largely rely on volunteers to assist both courts and children, they have proved to be cost-effective. To help document the results of their projects, courts or organizations awarded grants are required to track their progress in quarterly reports to council staff.

This year, CASA programs in 40 counties received grant funding.

● For more information, contact Stephanie Leonard, 415-865-7682; e-mail: stephanie.leonard@jud.ca.gov.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANTS AWARDED

Recent grant awards are making it easier for California's courts to reach out to their communities.

In November the Judicial Council approved a total of \$166,000 in Community-Focused Court Initiative Grant awards distributed among 40 superior courts.

The grants will help fund projects such as:

- Free court seminars to educate the public on various areas of California law;
- Youth workshops on restorative justice and juvenile law issues;
- Three one-day forums to increase communication between the court and the community; and
- "Teach the Teachers" seminars designed to enhance educators' knowledge of the court system.

● For more information, contact Jack Urquhart, AOC's Research and Planning Unit, 415-865-7654; e-mail: jack.urquhart@jud.ca.gov.

INTERPRETER HELP FOR FAMILY LAW LITIGANTS

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) distributed a total of \$1,552,500 among 43 superior courts in California to fund interpreter services in family law cases where domestic violence protective orders have been sought. The AOC's Domestic Violence—Family Law Interpreter Program is aimed at helping courts provide certified or registered interpreters and interpreter coordinator services for indigent litigants.

The AOC and the courts will work together to collect data, conduct interviews, and carry out other research to evaluate the program. They will gather statistics such as the language interpreted; whether the interpreter was certified, registered, or otherwise qualified; and the total number of interpretations conducted through the program.

● For more information, contact Tamara Abrams, Center for Families, Children & and the Courts, 415-865-7712; e-mail: tamara.abrams@jud.ca.gov.

HR Update

Following is an update on some of the many statewide human resources initiatives being coordinated by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

INTERPRETERS BECOMING COURT EMPLOYEES

The Administrative Office of the Courts' Court Interpreters Program (CIP) unit is helping to ensure that courts are ready to implement a law mandating that they use interpreters who are court employees. The Trial Court Interpreter Employment and Labor Relations Act (Sen. Bill 371) requires that this transition be made by July 1, 2003, with some limited exceptions for the continued use of independent contractors.

In response to the legislation, CIP is leading an agency-wide effort to assist the Judicial Council and the courts in fulfilling the act's mandate. Four key areas are being addressed: (1) hiring and benefits, (2) assignment and personnel policies, (3) the continued use of independent contractors, and (4) employee organizations and collective bargaining. Within these four categories, the AOC is conducting the following specific activities required by the legislation:

- ❑ Development of minimum qualifications and scope of duties for court interpreter applicants;
- ❑ Development of a system for the courts to identify court interpreters who are eligible for employment;
- ❑ Recommendation of rules for the creation and operation of Regional Court Interpreter Employee Relations Committees (RCIERCs);
- ❑ Recommendation of rules and regulations for collective bargaining for the RCIERCs' adoption; and
- ❑ Recommendation of procedures to facilitate efficient cross-assignments of court interpreters.

● For more information, contact Shireen Advani, 415-865-7606; e-mail: shireen.advani@jud.ca.gov.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION GROUP CLARIFIES LAW

This past fall, members of the former Workers' Compensation Oversight Committee helped to prepare courts for the implementation of Senate Bill 2011, which clarifies an ambiguity in the law by defining the trial court as an entity eligible for self-insurance for the purposes of workers' compensation.

The 2001 Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act (SB 2140) made trial courts independent employers and required that trial courts provide workers' compensation coverage for trial court employees under a program established or approved by the AOC by January 1, 2003. The oversight committee, which was composed of trial

court representatives and AOC personnel from several divisions, recently disbanded after completing its task of creating a self-insured program for the courts.

● For more information, contact Azucena Coronel, 415-865-4308; e-mail: azucena.coronel@jud.ca.gov.

BRANCHWIDE HR INFORMATION SYSTEM

Phase one is complete in an ongoing project that promises the courts faster access to human resources (HR) information.

Begun in July, the initial research phase of the Trial Court Human Resources Assessment and Human Resources Management Information Systems (HRMIS) Study is complete, with the data validated by court executive officers. The data consists of a court-by-court review of HR management systems, staffing, division of labor, and technology needs.

The information was first presented to the HRMIS Administrative Working Group in November. At that time, the working group also established a framework for HR priorities and best practices that will be utilized statewide.

The next step in the study is to have the data analyzed by IBM Business Services Consulting (previously known as Price Waterhouse Coopers Consulting), as well as by AOC HR and AOC Information Services staff, to identify similarities and differences between and among courts so that HR service-delivery needs can be better addressed.

● For more information, contact Pamela Sufi, 415-865-4299; e-mail: pamela.sufi@jud.ca.gov.

HELP WITH LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

A partnership between the AOC's Human Resources Division and the Superior Court of Modoc County recently resulted in a new labor agreement between the court and its represented employees. The agreement was the outcome of a new service offered by the AOC's Labor and Employee Relations Unit (LERU), which provides labor relations assistance to courts that lack these resources and would otherwise need to hire a consultant on a contract basis.

On a request from the Modoc court, Jim Duncan—a LERU staff member—acted as its chief negotiator during the contract talks between the court and the union. "Having Jim Duncan facilitate our negotiations allowed administration to keep an open and functioning relationship with our staff during the negotiations," says Linda Ostoja, the financial officer for the court.

● For more information, contact Jim Duncan, 415-865-4278; e-mail: jim.duncan@jud.ca.gov. ■

MOVERS and SHAKERS

Tackling the Judicial Branch Budget

MARK POTHIER

Justice Judith McConnell's involvement with the Judicial Branch Budget Advisory Committee is a natural next step in her 25-year career of helping to shape and implement a vision for the California courts. The committee, for which she serves as chair, is responsible for providing strategic budget advice to the Judicial Council and advocacy on behalf of the judicial branch.

While serving on the Judicial Council from 1991 to 1993, Justice McConnell chaired the council's first strategic planning retreat. "This conference essentially restructured the Judicial Council," she says, "creating the first-ever planning committee [currently the Executive and Planning Committee] responsible for long-range planning for the council and the courts."

"The whole idea, back then, was that the Judicial Council needed to take a greater leadership role," says McConnell. "It was there that we first envisioned how to implement state court funding, in hopes that it would mean a more stable budget for the judicial branch. I think that now, as one result of state funding, the smaller courts do have better and more reliable resources than they did under local funding, and the judicial branch is paying more attention to their needs. What's unpredictable is how long our current budget crisis is going to last, and how well we can continue to maintain existing programs through that crisis."

California has faced similar crises in the past. In fact, McConnell notes, the courts have planned for them. "After I became chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, I reviewed *Justice in the Balance—2020* [the Report of the Commission on the Future of the California Courts]. The report, which was published in 1993 during the state's last recession, discusses budget fluctuations and many of the other problems we are grappling with now."

"However, while the budget crisis certainly demands our attention," she says, "completing the transition from local to state court funding is one of our greatest challenges. So far that transition has gone more smoothly than anyone could have anticipated, but we are also uncovering many problems relating to how counties bill for services they provide, how they account for them, how they

should be audited, issues related to funding facilities and trial court employees' salaries and benefits...All of these have budgetary implications."

The advisory committee, appointed by Chief Justice Ronald M. George in April 2002, includes members experienced in dealing with all three branches of government, and McConnell is confident that combined experience will serve the Judicial Council well in sorting out budget priorities and policy issues. The committee has met face to face once, in November 2002, and several times by conference call, "because they're convenient and economical," says Justice McConnell.

In part due to her own experience as co-chair of the Community-Focused Court Planning Implementation Committee, which put the state's first court and community collaboration project into effect, Justice McConnell is certain that court-community collaboration will remain essential to the courts' fulfilling their mission. "We must continue to develop court-community collaboration: We are too deeply involved to stop, it's too important for the courts, and it is the most effective educational tool we currently have for maintaining and improving public confidence in the courts. But in the near future, the courts will be forced to do this in a more cost-effective manner, because anything that costs money (such as surveys) will be closely scrutinized unless it is supported by a grant-making institution or other outside source."

Despite the acute need for focused planning and accountability, Justice McConnell believes the courts can still continue to not only maintain but improve the quality of justice. "First the courts, through the Judicial Council, need to ensure that the judiciary is treated as a full partner in our democratic process—as the third branch of government that it is. The Chief Justice and Judicial Council have already shown their commitment to advocating for us before the Legislature and executive branch. But the courts will need to operate more efficiently. Frankly, we're going to need to look at how we can continue to provide services with perhaps fewer resources. It may be that we'll ultimately need to discontinue some services. And that will be very painful indeed."

Justice Judith McConnell

San Diego Municipal Court—appointed 1977
Superior Court of San Diego County—appointed 1980
Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District—appointed 2001

Judicial Council, 1991–1993

Advisory Committees/Commissions: Judicial Branch Budget Advisory Committee (chair); Community-Focused Court Planning Implementation Committee (co-chair); Gender Bias in the Courts; Committee to Implement the Gender Fairness Proposals; Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury System Improvement; Qualifying Ethics Planning Committee; Court Management Committee; Superior Court Committee; New Judge Education Planning Committee; Commission on the Future of the Courts; Trial Court Coordination Standards Committee; CJER Governing Board; Task Force on Judicial Ethics Issues

Awards/Recognitions: Judicial Council's Jurist of the Year; Benjamin Aranda III Access to Justice Award; California Women Lawyers Joan Dempsey Klein Award; National Association of Women Judges Honoree of the Year Award



Justice Judith McConnell
Court of Appeal,
Fourth Appellate
District, Division
One

Next Steps for Access to Justice

The California Commission on Access to Justice's five-year status report, *The Path to Equal Justice: A Five-Year Status Report on Access to Justice in California*, identifies goals and priorities for continuing to increase equal access to justice for all Californians. Following are some of the report's recommendations.

- ❑ The Equal Access Fund must be dramatically enhanced in the next five years, increasing resources for legal services for California's poor so that at least 50 percent of the legal needs of the poor are being met.
- ❑ Financial and pro bono contributions from attorneys and law firms must increase.
- ❑ Assistance for self-represented litigants must continue to expand and be improved and access to lawyers must be available when necessary to ensure equal justice.
- ❑ Litigants with limited English proficiency must receive assistance in their primary language in order to fully understand and participate in the judicial process.
- ❑ A statewide plan must be completed and implemented to eliminate disparities in legal services between urban and rural areas.
- ❑ Innovative programs for the delivery of lower-cost legal services to moderate-income residents must be developed.

Report Identifies Gaps and Gains in Access to Justice

BLAINE CORREN

Nearly one and a half million poor families in California do not have access to justice when their rights to employment, housing, health care, transportation, or other basic needs are denied, according to a recent report prepared by the California Commission on Access to Justice.

The five-year status report, *The Path to Equal Justice: A Five-Year Status Report on Access to Justice in California*, also finds that only one lawyer is available for every 10,000 poor Californians and only 28 percent of the civil legal needs of the state's poor and low-income residents are being met, leaving the state lagging far behind many other states.

"As a practical matter, in most cases there can be no access to justice without access to legal assistance," said Jack Londen—past chair of the Commission on Access to Justice—in a press release distributed by the State Bar. "Whether we like it or not, sometimes landlords illegally evict tenants, children with disabilities are denied proper care, veterans don't get services guaranteed to them, and elderly people need legal assistance to escape the abuse of a caregiver."

"As Chief Justice Ronald M. George has observed, Californi-

ans cannot allow 'and justice for all' to become 'and justice for those who can afford it,'" added State Bar President James Herman in the State Bar's release. "I never tire of pointing out the generosity of California lawyers. But these numbers cry out for more funding and greater commitment to pro bono work by our lawyers."

A CHALLENGING NEED

In 1997 the state established a broad-based commission to lead a statewide effort to increase access to justice. The Governor, Attorney General, and Legislature joined with the judiciary and State Bar, as well as business, labor, and community groups, to create the California Commission on Access to Justice to address the issue of meeting the legal needs of all Californians.

In 1999, Governor Gray Davis established the Equal Access Fund, which has allocated \$10 million annually to the 100 legal services programs in California and has increased funding for civil legal services for the poor. In addition, private funding for legal services—primarily from foundations and private law firms—has increased more than 70 percent in the last five years, according to the new report. However, the report found that the state would need to

triple its combined public and private investment in legal services to provide legal services for all of those who need them.

The report notes that outside factors like higher unemployment and an economic downturn are exacerbating the problem. The current government investment in legal aid still amounts to only \$13.20 worth of legal services for each of California's poorest people. Minnesota and New Jersey spend three times that amount per poor person, Connecticut and Massachusetts more than twice as much, and places like England, Canada, Australia, Scotland, New Zealand, and Hong Kong spend anywhere from 2 to 14 times more proportionally than California.

Despite the gloomy portrait it paints of California's legal access for the poor, the report also outlines gains made in the past five years, including:

- ❑ The Equal Access Fund's provision of \$40 million for legal services programs, placing California among the 40 state governments that fund legal aid;
- ❑ Creation of self-help centers in every county; and
- ❑ Development of a more cost-effective system of delivering legal services through use of cutting-edge computer and

Internet technology and other strategies.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE JUDICIARY

The report is dedicated to the judiciary, making special note that many of the strides in the area of increasing access to justice stem from its efforts. The introduction to the report observes, "The accomplishments in this report could not have been achieved without the vision and leadership of Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the commitment of the California Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the dedication of hundreds of judicial officers and court staff from across the state."

The report specifically mentions that in the last five years the judiciary—in many cases working with the state Legislature—took a series of bold steps to increase pro bono representation and to make the courts more user-friendly for those who do not have counsel. The report identifies steps such as creating a statewide self-help Web site, providing family law facilitators in every county, partnering with legal services providers to place centers for self-help assistance in courthouses, and launching a statewide Judicial Council Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants to identify long-term solutions.

● To view the full report, visit www.calbar.ca.gov/calbar/pdfs/accessjustice/2002-Access-Justice-Report.pdf. ■

Regional Offices

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California has already spurred many questions from the courts," says Sheila Gonzalez, Regional Administrative Director, Southern Region. "One of the best ways to get through a difficult situation like this is to bring people together and share ideas. Our office can help set up meetings between courts or direct court leaders to the appropriate AOC staff for assistance."

The Southern Regional Office facilitated a meeting on Sep-

tember 23 to provide a forum for regional court leaders to share their strategies for dealing with budget reductions. Forty-seven court leaders and AOC staff came together to discuss the budget process, current challenges, and possible solutions. The forum led to the development of the Trial Court Executive Management Budget Working Group, which held its first meeting on December 16 in San Francisco.

In coordination with the AOC's Human Resources Division, the offices also offer regional forums on human resources issues. In October, the first regional Labor Relations

Forum was held in San Francisco to discuss issues surrounding collective bargaining and the recently passed legislation that would make most interpreters court employees.

Besides the core areas, the regional offices offer a range of services to the courts, including assistance on issues such as facilities, security, legislative research, and technology. Further, the offices administered regional grants, worth a total of \$1.5 million, to courts last year to help them meet a host of unique and locally defined needs in the areas of court operations and technology.

"Our staff is in constant

contact with the courts on a wide range of issues," adds Ms. Gonzalez. "Personally, I have been invited to attend a number of court meetings. From those meetings, I have been impressed by the commitment of court leaders to improving the operation of the courts."

NEWEST OFFICE

In June, the AOC officially opened its third regional office with the addition of its latest regional director, Christine Patton. "It has been a busy six months," says Ms. Patton, former executive officer of the Superior Court

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Bay Area/Northern Coastal Office

COURTS IN REGION

Courts of Appeal: First Appellate District, Sixth Appellate District

Superior Courts: Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Lake, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma

STAFF

Christine Patton, Regional Administrative Director

Prior to joining the AOC in June 2002, Ms. Patton was the executive officer of the Santa Cruz County court since 1988. She has served

on a variety of Judicial Council committees and task forces, including the Task Force on Trial Court Employees and the Trial Court Budget Commission.

Jeanne Caughell, Regional Manager

The newest addition to the regional staff, Ms. Caughell assumed her duties on January 6 in the San Francisco office. She comes to the AOC after working for 27 years for the superior court in Ventura where she advanced from court clerk to supervisor to manager to, most recently, Deputy Court Executive Officer.

Contact Information:

Bay Area/Northern Coastal Regional Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
P – 415-865-7530



To communicate the availability of services offered through its Bay Area/Northern Coastal Regional Office, the AOC held an initial meeting for the region's presiding judges and court executive officers on September 9 in San Francisco.

Service Awards

Continued from page 1

supported numerous programs that have improved access to justice in the court, including One-Trial Jury Service, Family Court Information Centers, a Self-Help Legal Access Center, a Homeless Court, domestic violence clinics, regular bench/bar association meetings, and “meet your judges” events.

Judge Lois Haight, of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County, was selected for her contributions to judicial administration and for her many achievements in improving the juvenile justice system of Contra Costa County.

During her nine years as Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Court, Judge Haight successfully lobbied to have the court assign its only new judicial position in more than a decade to the juvenile division. She was instrumental in the construction of a new juvenile hall—which increased bed capacity by 100 percent—and created a separate treatment center for girls and a special residential program for emotionally disturbed children. She also secured 25 new beds and a drug treatment center for the county’s Boys’ Ranch.

In addition, Judge Haight helped establish a victim offender reconciliation program for juvenile delinquents and a juvenile drug court, and is currently assisting in the develop-

ment of a teen court. She also launched the Juvenile Court’s new dependency mediation program, and encouraged the placement of probation officers on school campuses, which has significantly reduced the court’s delinquency calendar.

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION AWARD

Tamara Lynn Beard, Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Fresno County, was selected for her commitment to excellence and her leadership at the local, regional, and state level as a court administrator.

During her 10 years as Executive Officer, Clerk of the Court, and Jury Commissioner of the Superior Court, Ms. Beard has increased public access to the court, promoted improved public confidence in the justice system, expanded legal services and technology, and improved continuing education and professional development for court staff.

In the past year alone, Ms. Beard has implemented the Legal Resources Center for the Spanish-speaking community that provides no-cost legal assistance and translation services. In addition, she obtained funding for the Mobile Access to Justice program in a 32-foot motor home that takes no-cost legal assistance to the large and low-income rural areas of Fresno County.

Under her leadership, the court has created comprehensive training programs for court

staff, including a 10-week orientation program for new employees and a 16-week Judicial Assistant Academy. In addition, Ms. Beard has implemented long-range strategic planning at the court, expanded the content of the court’s Web site, and increased the number of public access computer terminals at the court.

Ray LeBov was selected for his contributions to judicial administration as Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts’ (AOC’s) Office of the Governmental Affairs. Mr. LeBov directs the Judicial Council’s legislative program and, with his staff, represents the judicial branch in its dealings with the executive and legislative branches of state government on both the judicial branch budget and more than 1,000 court-related legislative proposals each year.

Mr. LeBov was instrumental in securing passage of the Judicial Council’s entire legislative package, including the landmark Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002 and other key measures. His knowledge, integrity, and reputation for cooperation and candor with legislative leaders have enabled the council to move ahead with a legislative agenda that supports its strategic goals.

Before joining the AOC in 1991, Mr. LeBov served in various staff counsel positions in the California Legislature from 1975 to 1991, most notably as counsel to the Assembly Committee on

the Judiciary from 1979 to 1991.

BERNARD E. WITKIN AWARD

Professor Jay Folberg is the recipient of the Bernard E. Witkin Award, which honors persons who are not current members of the judiciary for their outstanding contributions to the California courts.

Professor Folberg was honored for his leadership in the field of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and for his contributions over the past decade to the ADR accomplishments of the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

In 1988–1989, Professor Folberg’s leadership of the Task Force on the Quality of Justice, Subcommittee on Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Judicial System, paved the way for sponsorship of legislation that established early mediation pilot programs and helped reform the reference process. In 2001–2002, his service as chair of the Blue Ribbon Panel of Experts on Arbitrator Ethics assisted in the development of recently adopted ethics standards for arbitrators in contractual arbitration.

Professor Folberg is a professor and the former dean of the University of San Francisco School of Law. ■



Judge James Allen Bascue



Judge Lois Haight



Tamara Lynn Beard



Ray LeBov



Professor Jay Folberg

Regional Offices

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of Santa Cruz County. “I’ve been meeting with AOC directors, answering questions from court staff, and referring courts to other AOC divisions for help. This fall I completed visits to all 18 courts in our region.” Ms.

Patton recently filled the position of Bay Area/Northern Coastal Regional Office manager and will be adding a regional secretary soon.

The Bay Area/Northern Coastal Regional Office is currently housed on the sixth floor of the AOC headquarters in San Francisco. The office offers similar services as its counterparts in

the Southern and Northern/Central regions and, like those offices, has access to personnel with specific experience in these fields.

To communicate the availability of these services, the AOC held an initial meeting for the region’s presiding judges and court executive officers on September 9 in San Francisco. The

meeting was also attended by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey, and Chief Deputy Administrative Director Ronald G. Overholt. Court leaders discussed issues such as court budgets, facilities, security, and interpreters.

“My visits with court staff

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Southern Regional Office

COURTS IN REGION

Courts of Appeal: Second Appellate District, Fourth Appellate District

Superior Courts: Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura

STAFF

Sheila Gonzalez, Regional Administrative Director

Before joining the AOC in May 2001, Ms. Gonzalez served as court executive officer, clerk, and jury commissioner of the Superior Court of Ventura County since 1989. She previously served as court administrator of the Glendale Municipal Court.

Ms. Gonzalez is a past member of the Judicial Council and has participated on many council committees and task forces, including the Trial Court Budget Commission, Probation Services Task Force, and Court Executives Advisory Committee.

Yolanda Campagna, Executive Secretary

Ms. Campagna has been employed by the AOC since September 2001. Prior to joining the agency, she served as administrative assistant to former Governor George Deukmejian.

Florence Prushan, Southern Regional Manager

Prior to joining the AOC, Ms. Prushan served as the Assistant Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Ventura County from 1990 to 2001. She began her career with the courts in 1978. She has served as a member of the Judicial Council’s Advisory Committee for the California Court Staffing Study and the State of California Planning Team for Pro Per Litigation.

Christina Johnson, Senior Court Services Analyst

Prior to joining the AOC in 2001, Ms. Johnson served as a consultant in the areas of project management and grant writing, administered grants for a school district and various non-profit organizations, and taught English at the high school level.

Melissa Ardaiz, Special Consultant with the Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Prior to joining the AOC, Ms. Ardaiz attended Santa Clara University School of Law. She participated in externships at the Sixth Appellate District of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of California.

Katrina Coreces, Budget Analyst

Ms. Coreces has been with the AOC’s Finance Division since April 1998. Prior to becoming a Budget Analyst in November 2000, she was a Staff Analyst, working primarily on trial court revenue issues.

Nicolle Harvey, Receptionist

Prior to joining the AOC, Ms. Harvey worked as a receptionist and administrative assistant in the commercial real estate and property management industries. She also worked for Merrill Lynch Private Client Group as a service support representative.

Lily Kwan, HR Analyst

Ms. Kwan has worked in all functions of human resources management in the private sector for several Fortune

500 companies. She has been with the AOC since January 2002.

Jennifer McKee, Attorney with the Office of the General Counsel

Before joining the AOC, Ms. McKee litigated insurance coverage and complex business matters for more than eight years, most recently with Manatt, Phelps and Phillips LLP in Los Angeles.

Alan Wiener, Attorney with the Office of the General Counsel

Prior to joining the AOC in October 2001, Mr. Wiener worked as a mediator and dispute resolution consultant. Before that he practiced general civil litigation and transactional law in San Diego for approximately 20 years.

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